

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider an Information Disclosure Statement filed on March 18, 2005 by Applicants.

Claims 1-2, 9-12, and 20-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Uchiike et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,236,527). In response, Applicants amended independent claims 1 and 11 to clarify that a gradual change in the driving current occurs throughout the entire load operation and/or throughout the entire unload operation, and respectfully traverse.

The Examiner cites Figs. 4(a) and 4(b) as teaching load and unload operations, respectively, of a head of a storage apparatus. More specifically, the Examiner asserts that Uchiike shows a driving current undergoing a gradual change during a loading operation represented by element C1 in Fig. 4(a), which shows a drive current while the arm is released from contact with a wall, and also a driving current undergoing a gradual change during an unloading operation represented by element C2 in Fig. 4(b), which shows a drive current while the arm is pushed against the wall (cl. 6, lns. 10-14 and 21-24). However, Uchiike fails to disclose or suggest a gradual change in the driving current occurring throughout the entire load/unload operation. Instead, a pulse P1 is required at a beginning time t_0 during the load operation, and a pulse P2 is required at the end of the unload operation near an ending time t_1 , as shown in Figs. 4(a) and 4(b). (See also col. 6, lns. 5-7 and 21). Thus, Uchiike fails to

disclose or suggest a gradual change in the driving current throughout the entire load/unload operation, as in the present invention.

In contrast, claims 1 and 11 are now amended to clarify that the gradual change of driving current occurs throughout the entire load/unload operation. Fig. 10B, for example, is representative of the gradual change in the drive current. As a result of the gradual change in the driving current, the present invention can suppress a generation of mechanical noise during a load/unload operation, unlike Uchiike. For these reasons, withdrawal of the §102 rejection of claims 1-2, 9-12 and 20-21 is respectfully requested.

Claims 5, 7-8, 15, and 17-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Uchiike in view of combinations of Huang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,583,964), Phan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,760,992) and Koizumi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,982,570). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for the reasons recited above.

Since claims 5, 7-8, 15, and 17-19 ultimately depend upon claims 1 and 11, respectfully, they necessarily include all the features of their associate independent claims plus other additional features. Thus, Applicants submit that the §103 rejections of these claims have also been overcome for the same reasons as mentioned above to overcome the rejections of independent claims 1 and 11, and also because each of the cited references fails to overcome the deficiencies of Uchiike. Applicants respectfully request that the §103 rejections of claims 5, 7-8, 15, and 17-19 also be withdrawn.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this Application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By: 
Joseph P. Fox
Registration No. 41,760

April 20, 2005
300 South Wacker Drive, Suite 2500
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 360-0080
Customer No. 24978